

Fertility decline and changing living arrangements

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Strengthening the Scientific Foundation for Policymaking to
Meet the Challenges of Aging in Latin America and the
Caribbean

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Objectives

- Provide some thoughts on the relevance of studying living arrangements of older persons in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Illustrate those considerations with information from previous studies
- Present some preliminary results from a study on recent trends in the region that is currently in the making

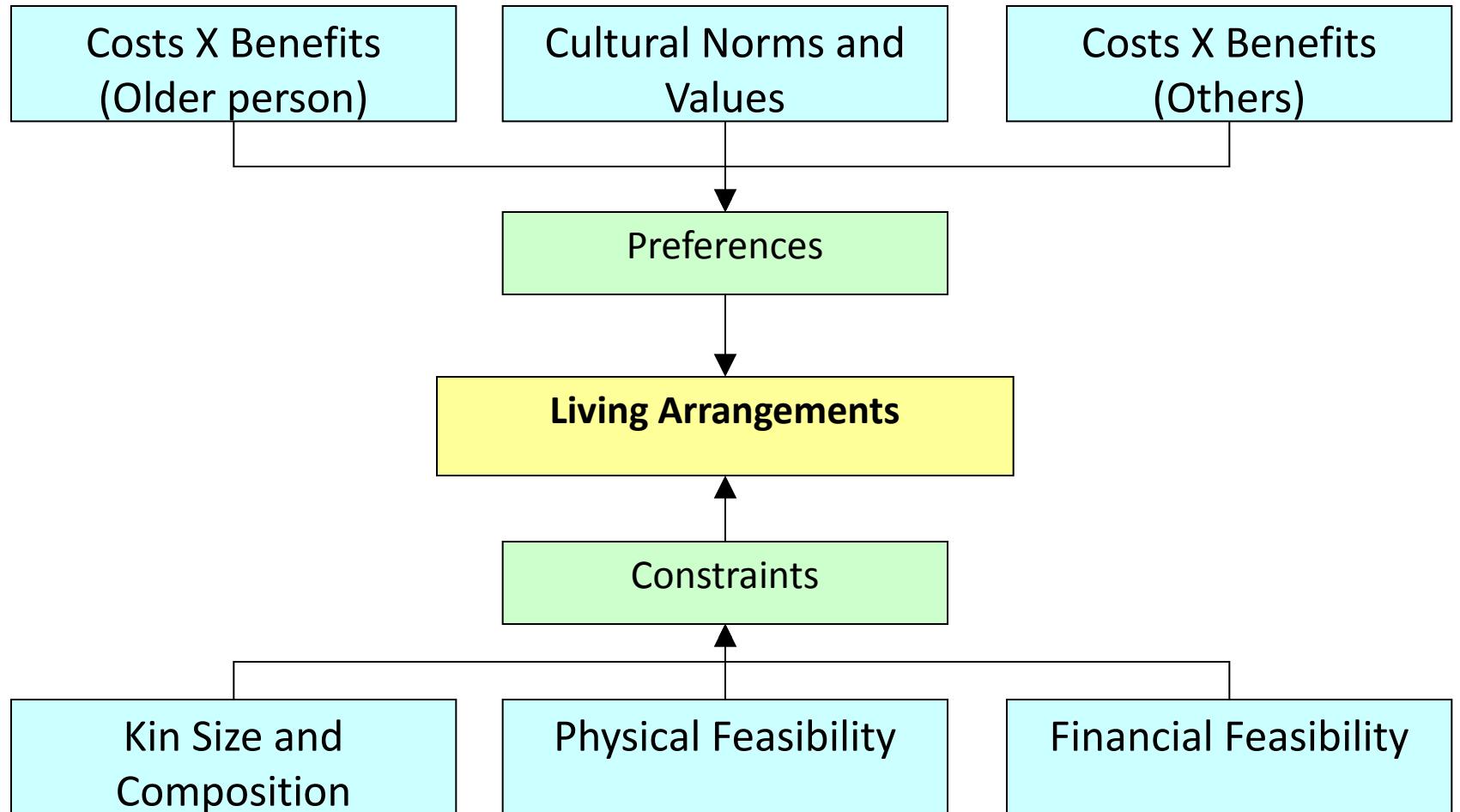
Why the study of living arrangements of older persons is particularly relevant in Latin America and the Caribbean?

- Informal support is supposed to play a decisive role in the well-being of the elderly wherever provision of adequate formal support is absent or deficient
- Coresidence is usually an important element in the intra-family support transfers system
- Not only more people survive to old age, but those who survive tend to live longer
- There are many factors that tend to constrain the ability of the family to provide support to the elderly
 - *Increasing labor-force participation of women*
 - *Decreasing number of children*
 - *Increasing mobility of younger generations*

Aspects to take into account in the study of living arrangements of older persons

- Consequences
 - *Well-being of the elderly*
 - Support received in ADL/IADL
 - Money, goods and services flows to the elderly
 - Satisfaction with current living arrangement
 - Satisfaction with life in general
- Determinants
 - *Public policy*
- Classification
 - *How to choose a small set of meaningful categories*

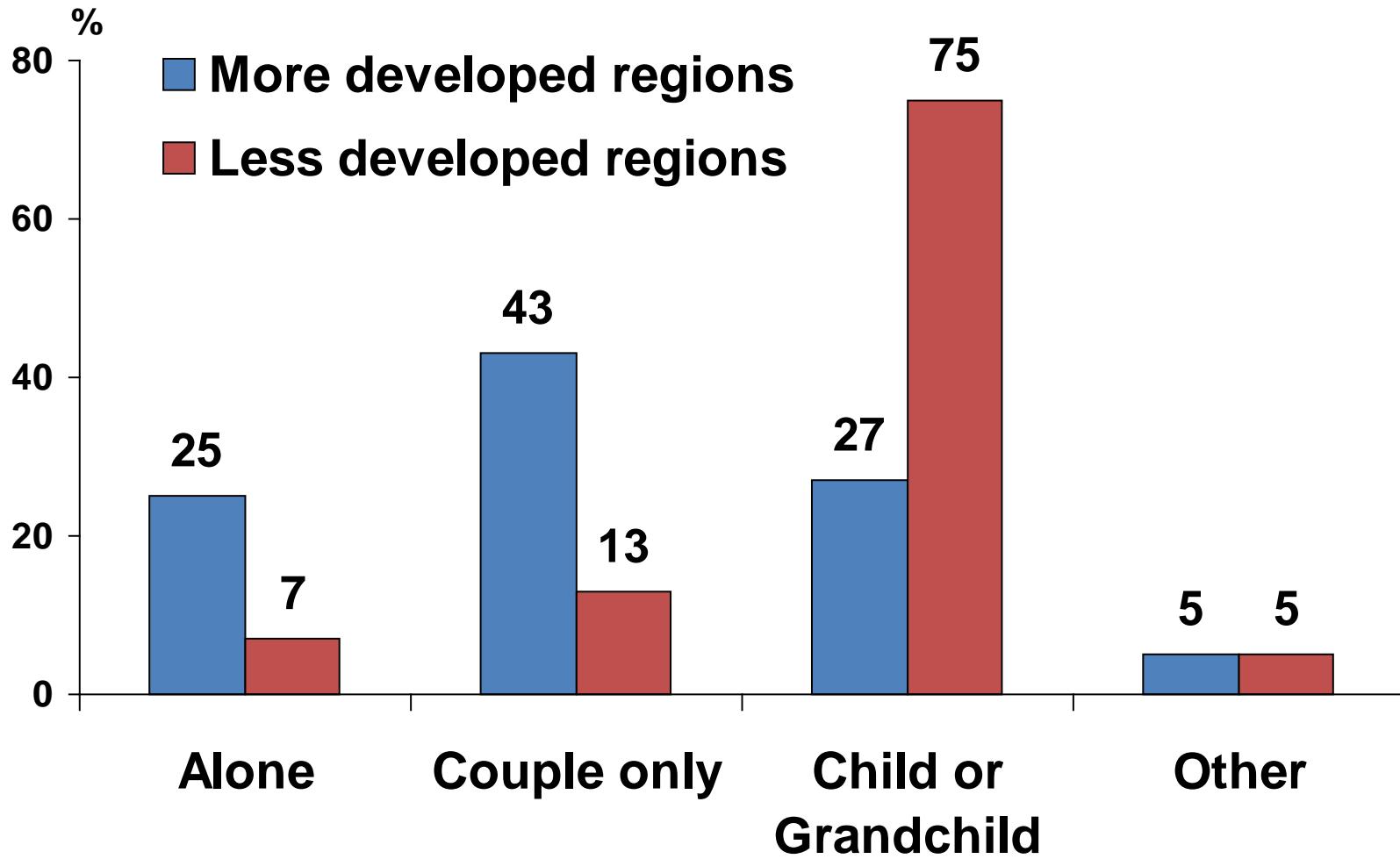
Determinants of Living Arrangements of Older Persons



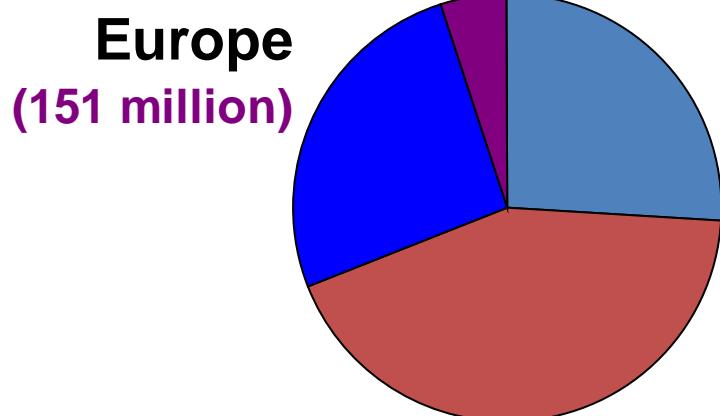
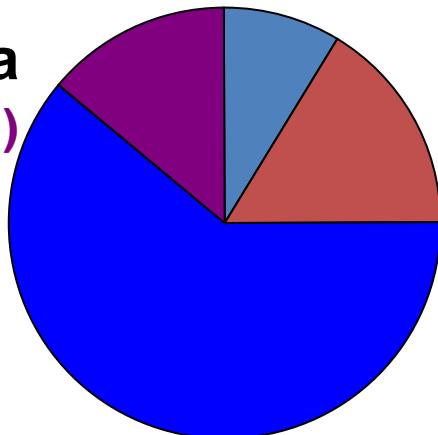
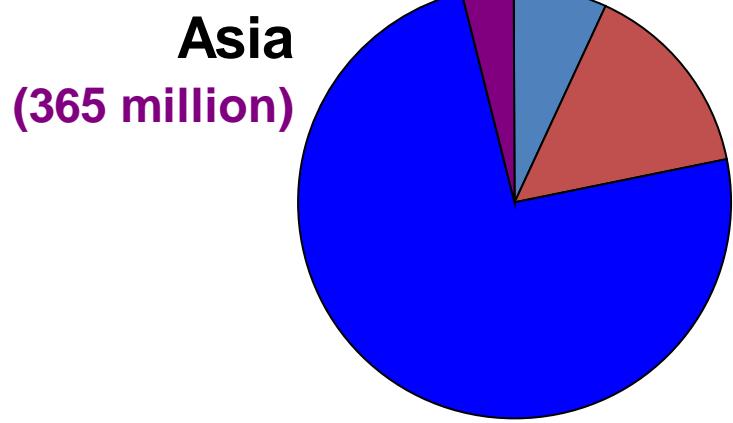
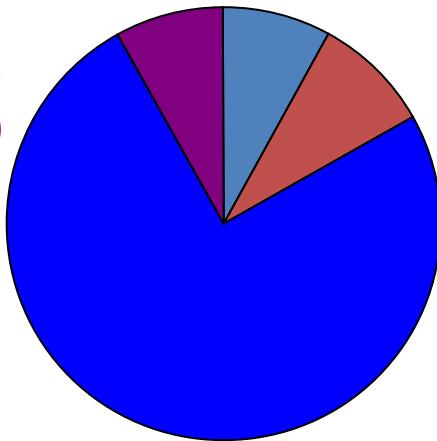
Classification of living arrangements

- Source
 - Relationship to the older person (ideal)
 - Relationship to the head of household
- Categories
 - Independent
 - Alone
 - Spouse only
 - Coresidence
 - With children
 - With others

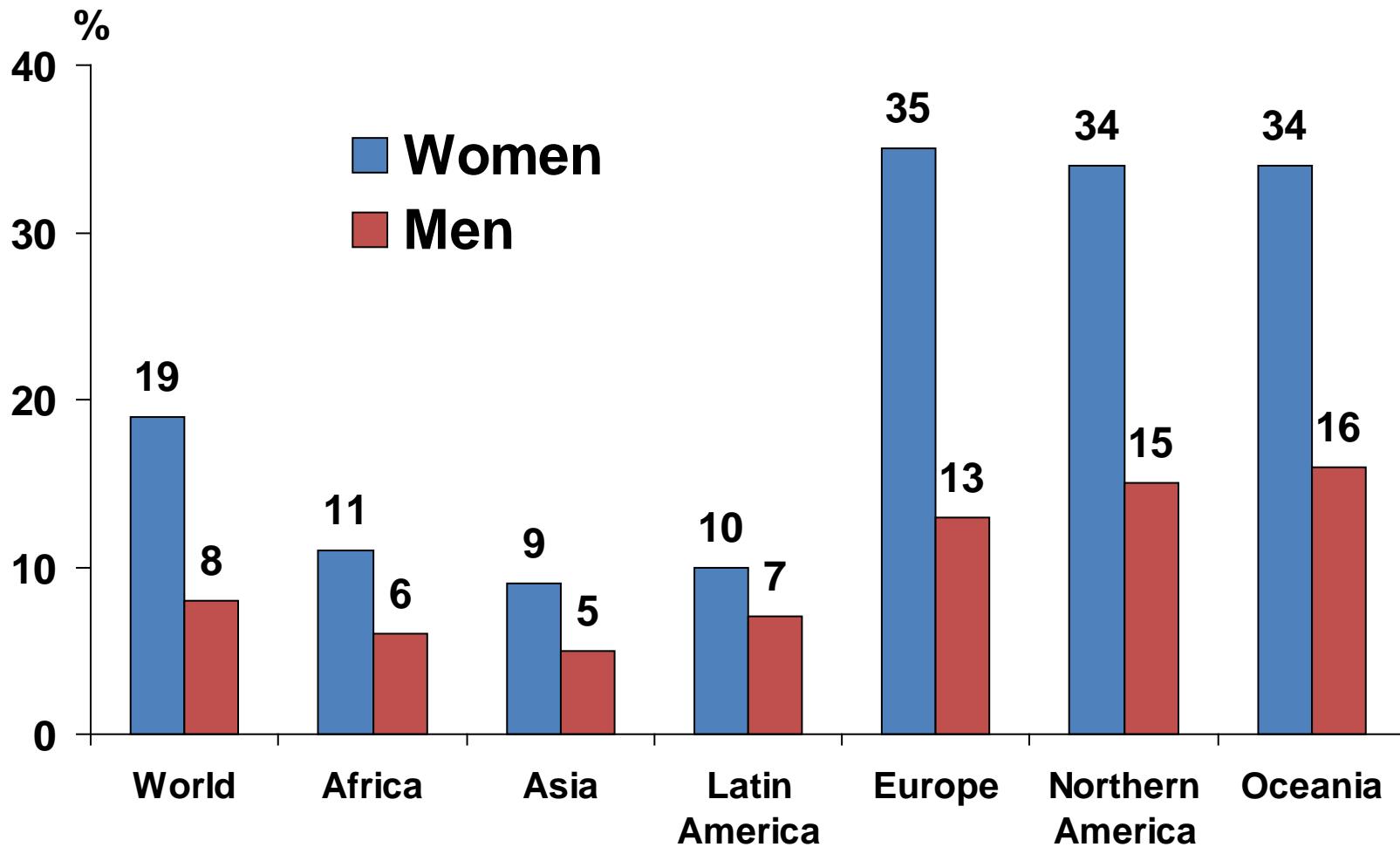
There are huge regional differences in living arrangements of older persons (60+)



Co-residence with children in Latin America is lower than Asia and Africa, but much higher than Europe

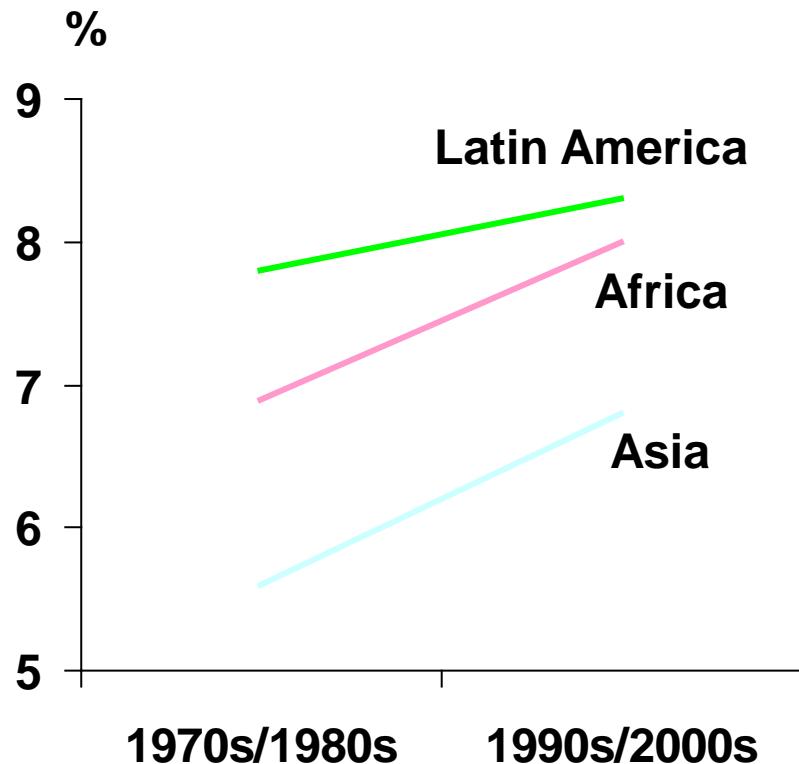


Older Women are More Likely than Older Men to Live Alone

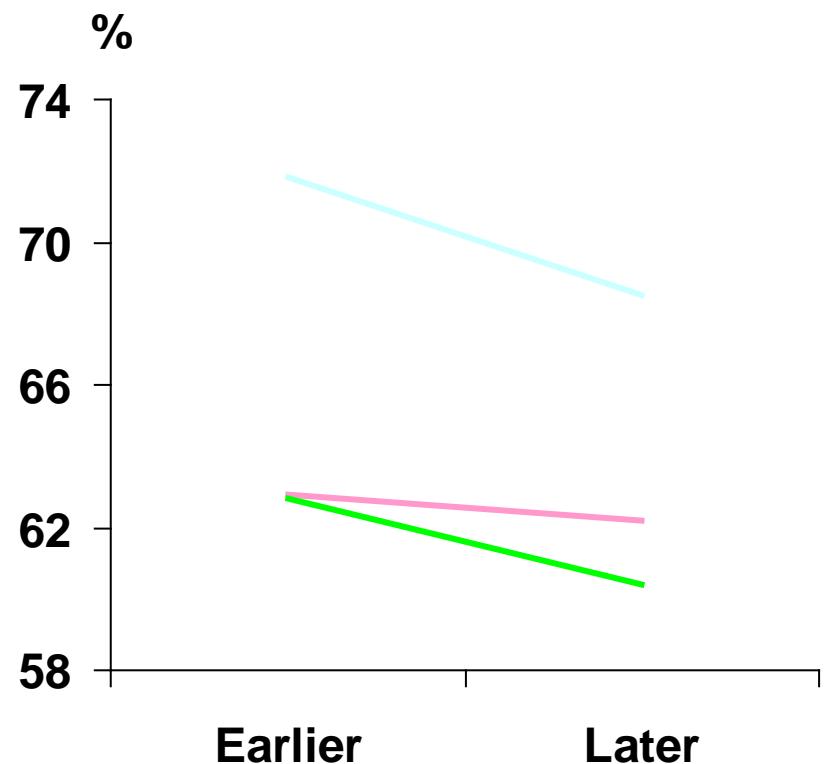


Trends in Living Arrangements

Alone



With Children



Economic and Social Differentials in the Course of Development

- Although still relatively low, the proportion of older persons living alone is expected to increase in developing countries
- In countries with very low levels of development, co-residence with children is associated with higher social and economic status
- Among countries at moderate levels of development this association tend to disappear or even reverse direction
- In the poorest countries, older persons living alone tend to be an especially disadvantaged group

Living Arrangements and Informal Support Transfers (money, goods, services)

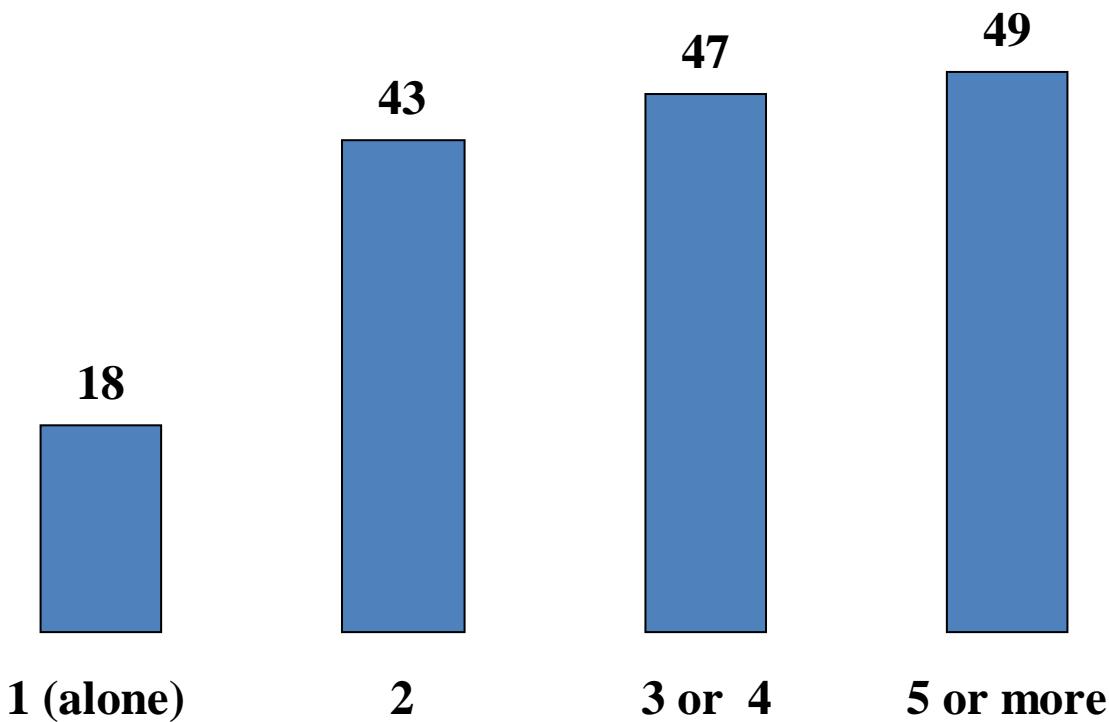
- Older persons are engaged in an intensive and two-way process of informal support transfers
 - Between 82% and 93% of older persons received some kind of support, **mainly from co-residents**
 - Between 70% and 88% provided some kind of support, **mainly to co-residents**

(SABE Survey, 2000, 7 Latin American cities)

Living Arrangements and Informal Support Transfers (Activities of Daily Living)

- Among unmarried older persons:
 - Lower levels of socioeconomic and physical vulnerability increase the probability of living alone
 - Co-residence increases substantially the probability of receiving support in ADL or IADL
- Among married older persons:
 - Neither co-residence nor the number of children affect the probability of receiving support in ADL - spouses are the primary provider

Older persons living alone are less likely to receive support in ADL (%, SABE Sample)

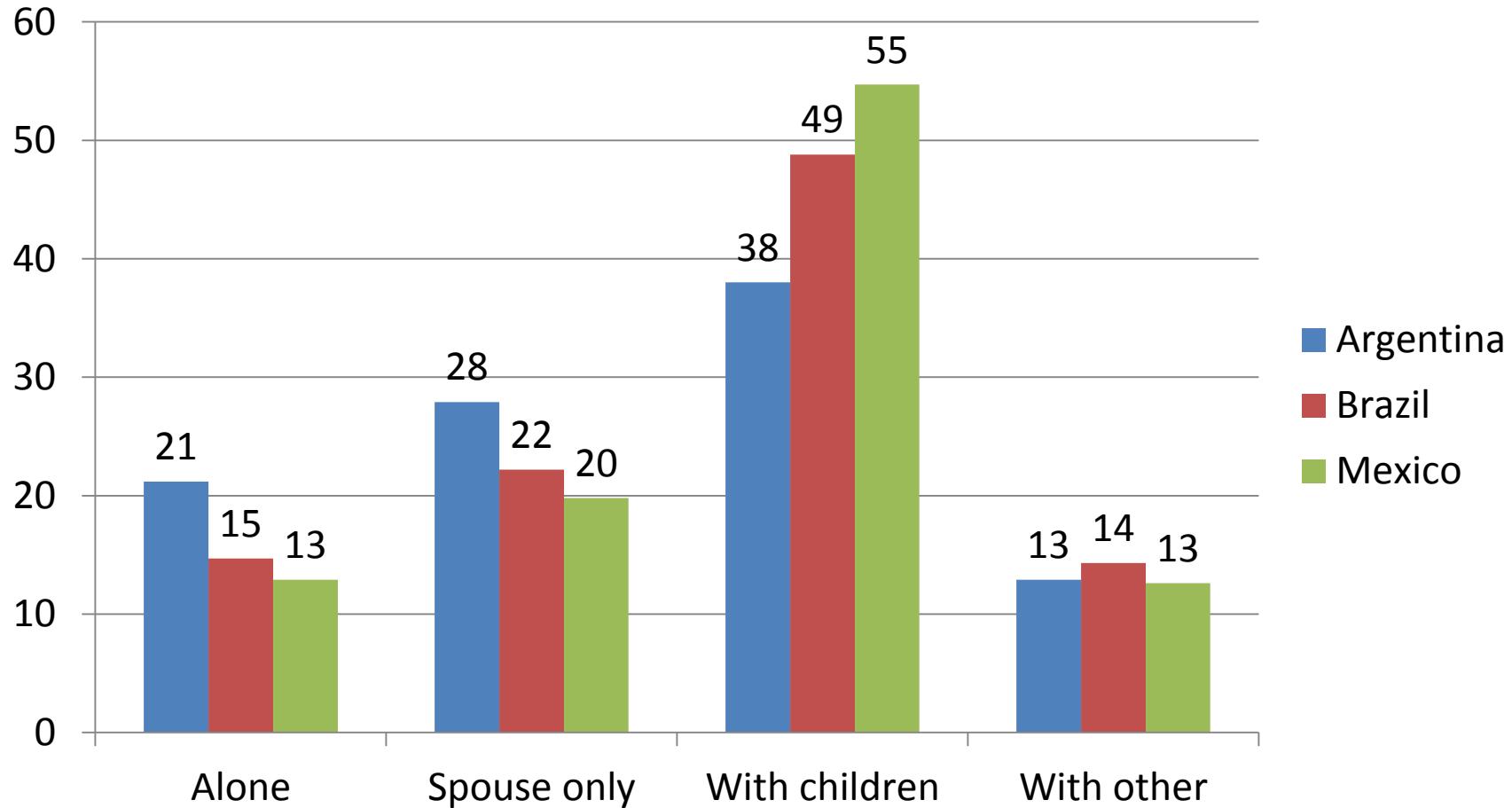


Characteristics of older population in 3 Latin American countries

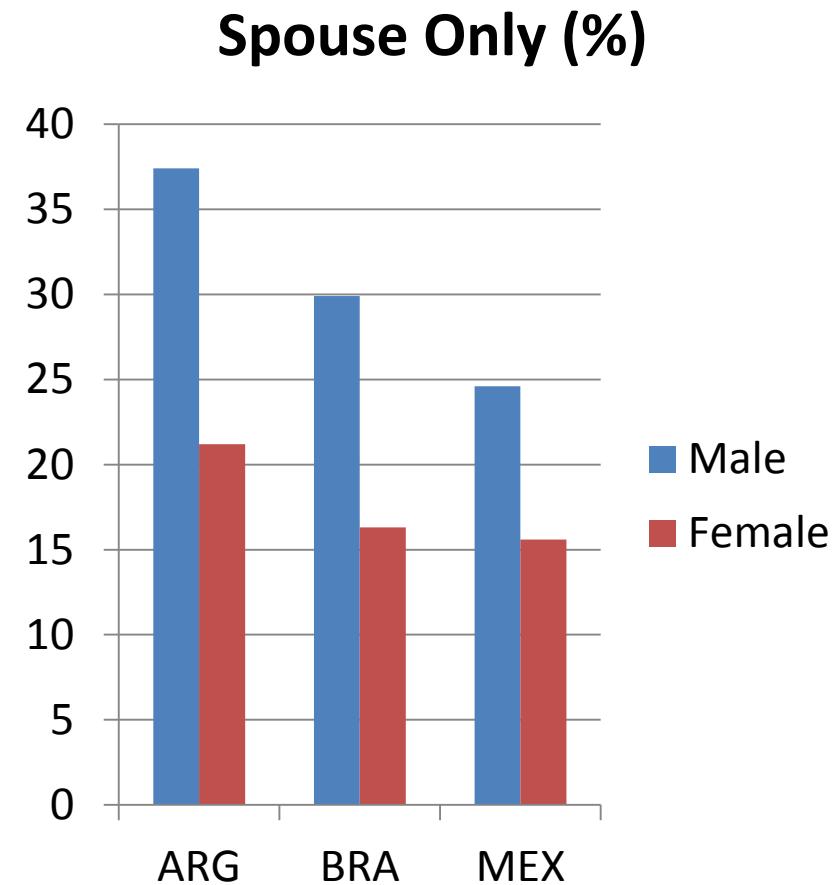
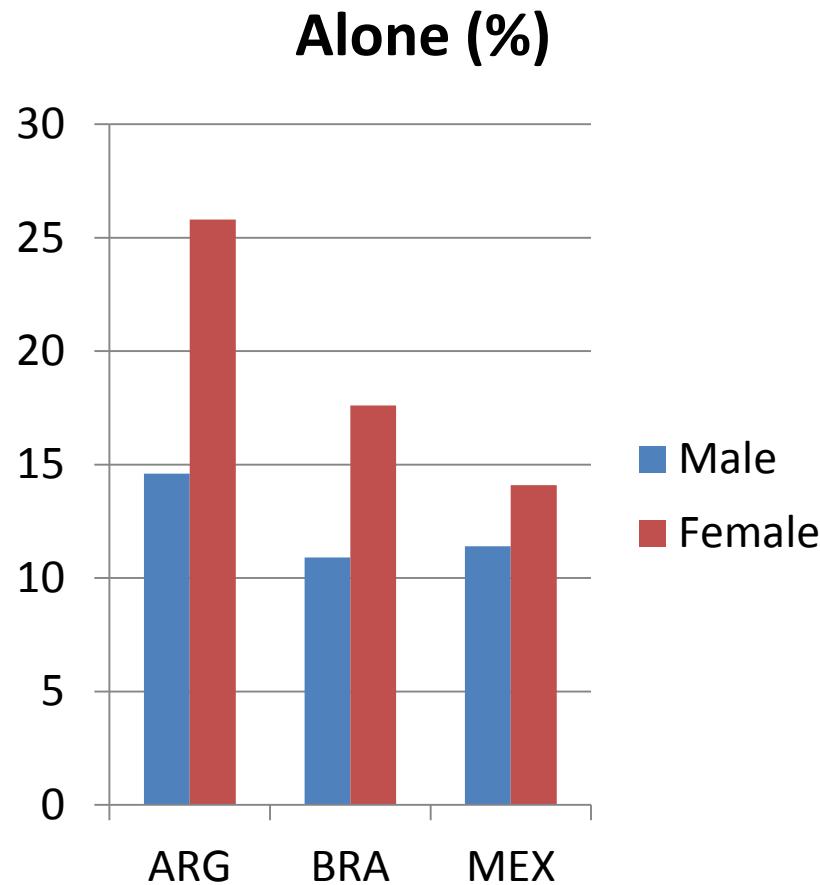
(2010 round of Census)

Country	% of pop 65+	% of households with a person 65+	Population 65+					% Married	
			Total (Millions)	% Female	% Head	% Low level of education	Male	Female	
ARG	10.2	25.5	4.0	59	64	67			
BRA	7.4	19.2	13.0	57	62	86	66	34	
MEX	6.5	19.7	7.3	54	64	82	72	40	

Living arrangements of older persons



Older women are more likely to live alone, older men are more likely to live with spouse only



Some preliminary results from the multivariate analysis

- Higher age first increases and then decreases the probability of independent living
- For unmarried: probability of living alone higher among men
- For married: probability of living with spouse only higher among women
- Higher education increases the probability of independent living (alone, spouse only)